

THE ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Rural District of Wigton

for the year

1946

by the

Medical Officer of Health

With the Reports of the Chief Sanitary
Inspector and the Water Engineer

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STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING 1946

	Date of Appointment.
H. C. SIMPSON, L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H., M.S.A., Medical Officer of Health	1/10/34
Also Assistant County Medical Officer	1/9/26
R. C. BLACKBURN, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.A. (Scott.), Chief Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor	1/8/36
E. BENNETT. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificate in Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I., Certifi- cate in Sanitary Science, R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor	1/9/44
Resigned	18/4/46
Wm. G. WEBB, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Sanitary In- spector and Sanitary Surveyor	20/11/44
L. J. PEARSON, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B., Certificates of the Liverpool University School of Hygiene in Meat and Food Inspection and Sanitary Science, Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor	19/8/46
MISS M. HUTTON, Clerk	1/8/45
Wm. SKERRY, Temporary Assistant on Housing Survey	1/12/45
J. M. BELL, Pupil Sanitary Inspector	6/8/46

Council Offices,
Wigton.
August, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigton Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting to you my thirteenth (and I regret my last) Annual Report, for the year 1946, upon the health and sanitary conditions of the Wigton Rural District.

The vital statistics are very satisfactory; there was a slight fall in the birth rate compared with 1945 but it was more than balanced by the very low infantile mortality, which is a record one and little over one half of that of the Administrative County of Cumberland. The general death rate was slightly below the previous year and also less than the average for Cumberland.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases was in several cases above those of recent years, the most noticeable being Diphtheria, but many of them were of a very mild type and several were really little more than "Carriers." It is of special interest to note that only 4 of the 21 notified cases had been immunised, and of these 2 were due for "booster" doses; all the immunised cases were of a mild type of the disease. Measles on the other hand, showed a very marked fall from 525 in 1945 to 78 in 1946. Of the non-notifiable infectious diseases Mumps showed a decline of over 80 per cent. compared with the average of the previous seven years. Chicken Pox and Influenza on the other hand were 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively above the average.

It is much to be regretted that so many of our post-war schemes for the betterment of conditions, and especially in the rural parts of the District, have so far failed to materialise. All of our dozen or so Village Sewerage Schemes are still "pending" and owing to the phenomenal rise in costs they look like remaining in abeyance for several years to come.

Our housing programme, like most others throughout the whole country, has had many set-backs, mainly owing to shortages of supplies of all kinds, with the result that many hundreds of our residents are living under conditions which are very far from satisfactory. To show how very acute existing housing conditions are to-day, the Housing Committee recently had the unenviable task of selecting 20 prospective tenants for new houses from a priority list of 140 families which had been previously picked out from a general list of many hundreds of applicants for houses in the Wigton area alone.

I again wish to draw your attention to the most unsatisfactory conditions existing at the so-called sewage works at Wigton. For all practical purposes they are now functionless as owing to the absence of any satisfactory form of treatment crude sewage is being continuously discharged into the neighbouring streams, and as much as the very defective outfall sewer will carry goes into the Solway about seven miles away.

As usual the County Medical Officer and his Staff have been only too willing to co-operate with us and I desire to express my appreciation of their frequent help. To the Council, its Officers and Staff I wish to offer my sincere thanks for their always willing help and support, not only during 1946 but also throughout several very difficult years dating back to 1934.

To the General Practitioners in the area I again offer my thanks for their co-operation and the completion of the monthly returns which have been most helpful. I trust that the good feelings which they have always displayed towards me as Medical Officer of Health for the area will be extended to my Successor whoever he may be.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD C. SIMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

	1946
Area of District in Acres	138,620
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population for mid 1946	22,260
Population at Census of 1931	22,058
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books at the end of 1946	6,406
Rateable Value	£115,193
Sum represented by a penny rate	£449

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	380	205	175
Illegitimate	26	12	14
Total live births	406	217	189
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 18.2.			

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate	13	9	4
Illegitimate	2	2	—
Total still births	15	11	4

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 35.6.

DEATHS	Total	M.	F.
All causes	272	144	128
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 12.2.			
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			
(P. Sepsis)	1	—	1
Deaths from other maternal causes	Nil	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age (M., 6; F., 4; Total 10)			
All infants per 1,000 live births			24.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			26.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
DEATHS from Cancer (M., 22; F., 19)			41
from Measles			Nil
from Whooping Cough			Nil
from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) (M., 1, F., 1)			2

Altogether 242 deaths were registered in the District; of these 18 were of non-residents and are therefore "outward transfers" and all details regarding them are excluded from this report.

There were, in addition, 45 deaths of persons who normally lived in the District and who died outside it—chiefly in Hospitals—these have been treated as “inward transfers” and details regarding them have, therefore, been included in the general statistics of the area.

Of the 10 deaths of infants, recorded above, 8 were from Congenital causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 10 (M., 6; F., 4), this being very much below the average for the whole County and for the Rural Districts.

The causes of deaths were:—

Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	2	} 8
Congenital Deformity, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6	
Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABATORY FACILITIES.—These are the same as before the war, all investigations are carried out at the Pathological Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, and the present arrangements are considered to be quite satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance stationed at Wigton covers the whole of the Wigton Rural District and during the past year has covered 10,350 miles and has conveyed 259 cases to and from hospital, etc. Undoubtedly it has been of immense service to the public since it came into use in March, 1937.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—The whole area is adequately covered by the District Nursing Association, and all of them supply motor vehicles for the use of their nurses. The following list gives the names and addresses of all the nurses working within the Wigton Rural District and who are responsible for the General Midwifery, and Public Health work within their areas with the exception of Wigton, Silloth and Aspatria where the Public Health work is done by County Health Visitors.

DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION

Allhallows N.A.—Nurse Smithson, Ellenside, Ireby.

Aspatria N.A.—Nurse McMullin, 36, Council Terrace, Aspatria.

Bothel N.A.—Nurse Johnston, Threapland, Aspatria.
(Blennerhasset and part of Torpenhow).

Burgh N.A.—Nurse Heskett, Welton House, Burgh-by-Sands. (Part of Bowness and Kirkbampton parishes).

Caldbeck N.A.—Nurse McCulloch, Beckside, Caldbeck.

Holme Cultram N.A.—Nurse Dover, 1, Council Houses, Abbey Town. (This nurse is a relief nurse supplied temporarily by the C.N.A. until a permanent nurse is appointed).

Kirkbride N.A.—Nurse Rome, King's Arms House, Bowness-on-Solway.

Oughterside N.A.—Nurse Maxsted, Moorside Cottage, Prospect. (Allonby, Hayton and Mealo).

Silloth N.A.—Nurse Storey, 61, Wampool Street, Silloth.

Thursby N.A.—Nurse Greenup, The Square, Thursby.

Waverton N.A.—Nurse Whyte, 5, Proctor's Row, Wigton.

Wigton N.A.—Nurse Graham, 14, William Street, Wigton.

COUNTY HEALTH VISITORS.—Miss Mercer, 147, Brampton Road, Carlisle, is responsible for the Public Health work in Wigton, Silloth, and part of Holme Low.

Miss Teasdale, 11, Ada Street, Netherton, Maryport, was responsible for the Public Health work in Aspatria, Westnewton, Blennerhasset, and parts of Allhallows and Torpenhow, but as she has recently resigned, these areas are at present being worked temporarily by County Health Visitors from other areas pending a new permanent appointment.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES AND HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.—The County Clinics at Wigton and Aspatria continue to give full facilities for the examination and treatment of all M. and C.W. cases, all children attending school, a complete dental service, regular days for Diphtheria Immunisation as well as a local Tuberculosis Dispensary. There is also a Dental Clinic at Silloth.

Children of all ages requiring treatment within the scope of the County Council's responsibilities are referred to the County M.O.H. who makes all arrangements for their treatment at one or other of the appropriate hospitals or refers them to the various specialists who are employed for the purpose by the County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES.—These have been dealt with fully by the Water Engineer and his detailed report will be found on page 29.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—For details see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report on page 18.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.—The conditions are little changed from those reported last year.

There is a constant overflow of crude sewerage into the river Wiza via the storm overflow at the Stampery at Wigton and nothing can be done to prevent it until the new sewerage works are completed. This matter has received careful consideration by the Council's Consulting Engineers but I see little prospect of the necessary work being carried out for some time yet.

There is also some pollution of the river Ellen from the small stream skirting the Aspatria sewerage works—plans for enlarging these works, etc., have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and we await their sanction for the necessary work to be done.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—A number of conversions to water carriage system have been carried out during the past year and others are pending but the present building restrictions are not conducive to progress in this direction.

SCAVENGING.—The third refuse vehicle was not delivered until the end of 1946 but since then all villages and nearly all hamlets in the District have weekly or fortnightly collections.

SWIMMING BATH.—The Wigton bath, the only one in the area, has been taken over by the County Council, and is now being overhauled and fitted with filtration plant, etc. It will not, however, be ready for use until 1948 when I am sure it will be of very great benefit to the District generally.

DISINFESTATION.—Three premises required attention for bed-bug infestation. In one case the infestation was very heavy indeed.

Rat infested premises are periodically being treated by the Ministry of Food's method with good results.

SCHOOLS.—A detailed survey of all schools in Wigton Rural District is now in progress and a special report will be presented at an early date. So far few defects of any great importance have been found but there are many minor ones requiring attention as soon as labour and/or materials are available.

SECTION D

HOUSING

“SQUATTERS.”—Towards the end of the year a number of empty and condemned houses in Wigton were occupied by squatters. Several of these houses have now been re-conditioned and are habitable for the time being, but their general situation and amenities are such that they should not be used as dwellings longer than is absolutely necessary.

About the same time a considerable number of squatters invaded many of the ex-R.A.F. huts at Silloth. These are all built of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch. brickwork with concrete floors. These huts had, of course, never been built to house families and normal cooking and sanitary facilities were absent. Most of the squatters were local families, but several came from many miles outside our area. Much time and thought was given to the matter by my staff, and a considerable sum of money has been expended on their improvement with the result that now about thirty families are living under reasonably good conditions. By far the greater majority of the tenants take a definite pride in the way they are kept and several have become almost “show places.” A close watch will, however have to be kept on these huts as their useful life is definitely limited.

For other details of Housing see Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

See Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirty-two cases, appreciably more than the previous year but about the average for the last four years. Eight cases were admitted to hospital.

MEASLES.—Twenty-three cases, and by far the lowest number reported since this disease was first notifiable. The average of the previous six years being 280. This disease usually occurs in cycles of about five years and our figures appear to conform to this standard as shown by the following figures :—

Year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
No. of Cases notified :	23	525	162	147	298	38	500

DIPHTHERIA.—Twenty-one cases, the highest figure since 1937 and about two and a half times the average of the previous twelve years. Nearly all the cases were distributed as follows:—Wigton 4, Aspatria 5, and Fletchertown 10. From investigations it appears that an unimmunised girl aged six, who was unwell at the time, came from another area to stay at Fletchertown for a holiday. She gradually got worse and died from Diphtheria before being seen by a Doctor or diagnosed as having the disease; this was confirmed later by post mortem examination. For several days during the early stage of the disease she played with many other local children and presumably infected several of them. Between the date of her death (March, 28th) and July 1st, there were nine other cases in Fletchertown, all of which, thanks to the great vigilance of the local general practitioners, were diagnosed early and removed to hospital. It is interesting to note that in four cases the mother who looked after her child in the early stages of the disease and prior to its removal to hospital, subsequently contracted the disease and was removed to hospital also.

Two of the Aspatria cases and one of the Wigton ones were known to have very recently visited Fletchertown or had been in close contact with people from that village and it is very probable that they contracted Diphtheria from the same source.

Of the twenty-one cases notified nine were of children attending School, and two were under School age. Only four of these eleven children had been immunised; one, two years previously and the other three, from three to five years before and who were due for "booster" doses of toxoid.

There were no severe cases among those that had been immunised but several of the unimmunised ones were seriously ill.

The sexes and ages of the cases at the time of notification were as under:—

Males—3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 10—15, 26, 36.

Females—3, 6, 8, 8, 9—18, 30, 32, 37, 37, 48, 50.

Most of the adults were known to have been direct contacts of other notified cases. Throughout the whole country so many children have now been immunised that there is a general tendency for the disease to attack the higher age groups where no immunisation has been carried out.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Seventy-eight cases, about 50 per cent. more than the previous year but well below the average of the last seven years.

CHICKEN POX AND MUMPS.—Although they are non-notifiable diseases the General Practitioners in the area reported that they had seen one hundred and ten cases of chicken pox as against an average eighty for the previous seven years. In the case of mumps only nine cases were seen compared with an average of seventy-five for the same period.

INFLUENZA.—Nearly one thousand four hundred cases were reported as having been seen by the General Practitioners, over a thousand being in January and February. The average of the previous seven years was under one thousand for the whole year.

There were no cases of Typhoid, Para Typhoid or Sonne Dysentery notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

The number of children in the area who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31/12/46							Total Under
Under 1 yr. i.e., Born in the year 1946	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15
Number	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937/1941	1932/1936	
Immunised 11	184	259	360	398	1,550	1,477	4,239
	1,212			3,027			

Estimated Mid-Year Population 1946	...	1,860	3,440	5,300
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During the year 1946 the following children were immunised as new cases :—

Born between 1942 and 1946	468
Born between 1937 and 1941	....	....	....	136
Born between 1932 and 1936	....	....	....	24
Making a total of	....	....	....	628

It is estimated that 90 per cent. of all children of school age have now been immunised and 65 per cent. of the children under 5 years of age.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—Appropriate treatment is undertaken by the County Council.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS 1925, AND SECTION No. 172 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.—No action was necessary during the year under these regulations.

MILK SAMPLING

I wish to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for the following figures relating to graded milk samples which have been extracted from his Annual Report for 1946. The figures for the ungraded are from our own records.

WIGTON R.D.

	T.T. Accredited.		Total Graded Milk	Ungraded Milk
No. of Graded Licences in force at end of 1946 ...	49	34	83	—
No. of Samples taken ...	169	140	309	130
No. of Samples reaching Accredited or T.T. Standard	119 (70 %)	96 (68 %)	215 (70 %)	82 (63 %)
No. of Samples below T.T. or Accredited Standard ...	50 (30 %)	44 (32 %)	94 (30 %)	48 (37 %)

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

No. of Graded Licences in force at end of 1946 ...	307	169	476	—
No. of Samples taken ...	1,072	652	1,724	546
No. of Samples reaching Accredited or T.T. Standard	795 (74 %)	489 (75 %)	1,284 (74.5 %)	299 (54.7 %)
No. of Samples below T.T. or Accredited Standard ...	277 (26 %)	163 (25 %)	440 (25.5 %)	247 (45.3 %)

During the year 1,245 samples were submitted for bacteriological test for tubercle and the percentage found positive was 1.3. The average figures for the last six years being 1,266 samples tested with positive findings of 1.5 per cent.

WIGTON R.D.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis, etc., detected on veterinary examination or otherwise reported were as under :—

	1946	Average of previous six years.
Tuberculosis Samples	1	5
Tuberculosis of Udder, etc. ...	2	5
Chronic Cough	1	6
Atrophy, Mastitis, Induration, Non T.B. etc.	24	60

Compared with 1945 the T.T. licences have increased by 16, mostly as a result of Accredited producers having been upgraded. The Accredited licences have fallen by 11. The total graded licences in the area have increased by 5.

It is of interest to note that there was an appreciable improvement in the percentage of satisfactory samples of graded milks taken compared with 1945—T.T. improved by 14 per cent. and Accredited by 9.5 per cent. So far as the ungraded samples are concerned there was a rise from 53.8 per cent. satisfactory to 63 per cent. It will also be noted that our satisfactory samples of graded milks are below the average of the whole County so there is still room for much further improvement.

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

VITAL STATISTICS.—Year Ended 31st December, 1946.

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Administrative County of Cumberland	19.5	12.6	47
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven) ...	20.9	13.2	48
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	18.6	12.1	46
Wigton Rural District	18.2	12.2	24.6
England and Wales	19.1	11.5	43

**Tuberculosis cases on the Local Register on
December 31st, 1946**

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	53	40	93
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	34	46	80
All forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	87	86	173

These figures show an increase over the 1945 ones of 9 cases, 7 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during
the Year 1946**

Age Groups	Scarlet F.		Whoop. C.		Measles		Diphtheria.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ...	1	1	6	—	4	2	—	—
1— 3 ...	1	4	5	8	3	3	—	—
3— 5 ...	6	5	19	15	4	—	—	2
5—10 ...	2	5	16	7	2	—	3	4
10—15 ...	1	3	—	2	2	1	2	—
15—25 ...	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	1
25 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	6
All ages	12	20	46	32	16	7	8	13
Total	32		78		23		21	

Age Groups	Pneumonia				Cerebro Spinal Meningitis			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Up to 5 ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15—45 ...	5	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
45—65 ...	3	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	6	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
All ages	17	5	3	7	—	—	—	1
Total	22		10		1			

Tuberculosis

New cases of Tuberculosis—all forms—notified during 1946 with the deaths from this disease during the same period :—

	New Cases.				Deaths.				
Age Group.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5—15	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
15—25	...	2	3	—	2	2	—	1	
25—35	...	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	
35—45	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	
45—55	...	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	
55—65	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
All ages	...	9	6	0	3	6	3	0	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		
	15		3		9		2		

Average for the
7 years

1940-46	11.5	8.1	6.8	2.1
4 years 1936-39	14.75	8.5	7.5	3.75

General Practitioners Monthly Returns

These returns have been regularly received from the General Practitioners in the area and in addition to the figures of non-notifiable cases reported by them they have also informed me month by month of any other diseases which were prevalent in their practices.

Disease. 1946.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.	Average for the previous 5 years.
Chicken Pox	6	6	12	6	3	2	43	1	4	1	4	22	110	83
Mumps	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	75
Influenza	451	464	110	65	34	16	21	8	26	47	40	94	1376	961

**Causes of Death within the Wigton Rural District
during 1946 as given by the Registrar General:—**

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	3	9	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2	
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	3	9	} 41
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	2	—	2	
Cancer of Uterus	—	2	2	
Cancer of Breast	—	5	5	
Cancer of Other Sites	14	9	23	
Diabetes	1	2	3	
Inter Cranial Vascular Lesions	12	17	29	
Heart Disease	40	44	84	
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	3	8	
Bronchitis	5	2	7	
Pneumonia	3	2	5	
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	2	5	
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	2	
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5	
Nephritis	2	3	5	
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1	
Premature Births	2	—	2	
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	4	2	6	
Road Traffic Accidents	5	1	6	
Influenza	1	1	2	
Other Violent Causes	2	6	8	
All Other Causes	24	13	37	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total	144	128	272	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	

Corresponding figures for 1945 ...	135	137	272
" " " 1944 ...	135	136	271
" " " 1943 ...	152	138	290
" " " 1942 ...	121	135	256
" " " 1941 ...	128	154	282

The total deaths from all causes, as per the Registrar-General's figures, were (M.144—F.128) 272, and their ages at death were as under :—

Under	Over
1 year 1/5 5/15 15/25 25/35 35/ 45 45/55 55/65 65/75 75/85 85	
10 3 6 5 3 10 16 37 74 72 33	

65 per cent. of the deaths were at the age of 65 or over.

CANCER

Cancer was responsible for 41 deaths (M. 22—F. 19) equal to a death rate of 1.8 per 1,000 population or approximately one death in every 6.6 which is about .2 per thousand above the average of the last eight years.

The following details give the site of the disease together with the age and sex. In addition, there were 2 other deaths from Cancer but no further information is available.

Site of Disease.	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	Total.
Bowel	... 64, 65, 75, 60, 83, 86.	63, 72, 66, 62.	... 10
Stomach and			
Duodenum	... 42, 64, 50, 74, 68	66, 73, 49.	... 8
Breast	...	65, 49, 75, 77.	... 4
Lungs	... 45.	57.	... 2
Uterus	...	50, 59.	... 2
Ovary	...	68.	... 1
Pancreas	... 87.		... 1
Prostate	... 85, 62, 88.		... 3
Oesophagus	... 69.	79.	... 2
Larynx	... 80, 79.		... 2
Other Sites	... 65, 19.	60, 56.	... 4
Total	... 21	18	39

REPORT
ON THE
WORK CARRIED OUT
BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTORS
DURING THE YEAR

To Dr. H. C. Simpson, Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report showing the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

During four months of that period the staff of the department was depleted. Mr. Bennett resigned in April and Mr. Pearson did not commence duty until August.

HOUSING.—The survey of housing conditions in the rural area continues. Table 1 in the appendix gives an indication of the grave necessity for additional houses to meet the needs of those families which are without a separate home of their own, and for cases where overcrowding exists.

Progress in this direction, slow and inadequate though it undoubtedly is, is reflected by the following.

Tenders were accepted early in the year for the erection of fourteen 2-bedroom type houses at Brackenlands, fourteen at Noble Croft, and forty-nine 3-bedroom type at Kirkland Avenue.

Work on all three estates commenced and at the time of going to Press the Brackenlands and Noble Croft estates are fully occupied and the majority of the Kirkland Avenue houses are occupied.

Complaints were received about the internal planning of some of the houses at Kirkland Avenue and certain alterations had to be made on the site, but the later houses were improved upon and those to be commenced in other parts of the area during 1947 are certainly a great improvement on the first post-war efforts.

A tender for the construction of roads and sewers was accepted in respect of a site at West Silloth to accommodate thirty-five houses.

At the time of writing, work on the erection of these houses is well in hand. This scheme has been characterised by poor workmanship and every conceivable form of delay appears to attend their construction.

Further building sites have been sought in the following places:—Newton Arlosh, Thursby, Abbey Town, Kirkbride, Bowness, Wigton, Silloth, Ireby, Uldale, Blennerhasset, Torpenhow, Bolton Low Houses, and Aspatria. The Committee were also instructed to inspect for suitable sites

at Hayton, Westnewton and Fletchertown but in view of the attitude of the Planning Authorities over the Council's selections at Blennerhasset and Bolton Low Houses, villages where housing development is apparently to be discouraged, further selections were deferred.

The Planning Authorities hold the opinion that development in these latter cases should be restricted to the townships of Aspatria and Wigton as the persons for whom the proposed houses were intended find their employment away from the villages.

The matter is not yet finally settled.

Squatters took possession of four R.A.F. camp sites at Silloth, seven condemned houses at Wigton, and three houses at Aspatria which were empty following action under the Housing Act.

In the case of the Aspatria houses the Council cancelled the Undertakings entered into under Section 11 of the Act by the owners of the property, thus condoning the action.

In the case of the Wigton houses requisitioning powers were exercised and all but one house were reconditioned for temporary occupation.

The R.A.F. hutments are brick-built and capable of adaptation as temporary dwellings. Plans and specifications were drawn up in respect of three of the sites and these have since been converted to reasonable temporary accommodation which is superior to more permanent accommodation endured by many people in the area.

One camp was rejected on account of the wet nature of the site, but even so the acute housing shortage in this part of the area resulted in the partial occupation of this camp also.

Although regarded as a source of annoyance at the time, it must be admitted that the action of squatters in forcing an entry into the four disused camps at Silloth has eased the acute housing situation in that area.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—The new 10 cu. yds. capacity Karrier vehicle was delivered at the end of the year but was not licensed until the new year. This vehicle is an improvement on the Karrier Bantam models in use at Silloth and Wigton. The increased carrying capacity is invaluable in a rural area where long leads to tipping places are unavoidable.

An itinerary was prepared providing for the collection of household refuse by direct labour in every village and most hamlets in the Council's area.

The only drawback lies in the fact that there is no reserve vehicle in the event of mechanical breakdown.

Most villages have a fortnightly collection, which entails heavy loads in winter, but the scheme works quite well and is a great improvement on previous arrangements.

After much searching, any hope of securing a suitable central tip to serve the needs of Bowness Parish was abandoned. The Railway Company have an ideal piece of ground at Port Carlisle but are unwilling to sanction its use for this purpose. Meantime all refuse from this area is tipped at Kirkbride, entailing considerable additional expenditure of time and money which would otherwise have been averted.

SEWERAGE.—The construction of modern sewage disposal works in a further number of villages is likely to be deferred in view of the present need for austerity in our national life.

It is to be hoped this will not apply to the proposal to construct a new scheme for Wigton town, as I have once more to report that the present sewage works and effluent sewer are in a state of collapse and the usefulness of the existing scheme from the point of view of bacterial purification of the sewage matter is negligible.

Extensions are proposed at the Aspatria works to ensure effectual treatment of the increasing volume of town's sewage. To obviate any suspicion of contamination of the small stream into which the present effluent is discharged a pipe is to be laid from the works direct to the river Ellen. It is also proposed to lay a storm overflow pipe from the main line of sewer in the vicinity of the new factories in course of erection at the lower end of the town. Roof water alone from these factories is considerable and would impose an undue burden on the sewerage system as it exists to-day.

A proposal to build an up-to-date laundry adjoining these works set a problem regarding the disposal of waste liquors. The chemical properties of laundry wastes are very harmful unless given prior treatment and the developers have been advised of the need for tank and sludge drying bed treatment before discharge into the Council's disposal works.

The work of reconstruction at the Thursby disposal works was completed at the beginning of the year.

Sewage disposal in the West Silloth area is still causing concern. In wet seasons serious infiltration occurs on the Blitterlaes section and all sewage from here has to be

lifted eleven feet to a point from which it can be disposed of by gravity. The excess water entering the sewer imposes an unreasonable strain on the electrically controlled ejector plant at Greenrow corner.

The erection of eighty-five new houses in this part of the town and the advent of forty families of squatters in the same locality must surely bring the matter to a head if it is not tackled beforehand. Fortunately the Council had the foresight to provide separate drainage facilities to a stream for the roof water from the new housing estates, thus easing the burden on this plant and saving power costs.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.—572 applications for building licences were dealt with during the year and in 288 cases it was found necessary to investigate on the site.

A great deal of office routine is involved in connection with this work of issuing licences and granting permits for controlled materials, and hundreds of interviews are granted to tradesmen and others.

This phase of the work of the department occupies more time than any other and is probably the least appreciated.

SALVAGE.—The comparative table No. IX in the appendix giving particulars of paper collected and disposed of by the department during the past six years shows an improvement for the year under review.

In respect of the two six monthly periods the Council earned special incentive bonuses offered by the Government to those Authorities which reached a certain tonnage in paper collections.

CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.—New and improved regulations were drawn up for the conduct of the seven licensed camping sites in the area. The two sites at Silloth were brought into compliance forthwith but those at Allonby have yet to be improved.

Insistence on the water carriage system of sewage disposal is the principal improvement called for in the regulations, thus doing away with nuisances arising from the indiscriminate burying and dumping of chemical and pail closet contents.

A further licence was granted in respect of a site in the Beckfoot area but so far this land has not been developed.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.—Tables IV to VII in the appendix give particulars of the meat and other foodstuffs condemned in the Abattoir and elsewhere.

RODENT CONTROL.—Baiting for rats was carried out at the salvage depots at Silloth and Wigton, and the Wigton refuse tips were treated successfully by the methods recommended by the Ministry of Food.

All refuse tips and the principal sewers throughout the area are to receive routine treatment in future.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.—Of 63 inspections under the Act it was necessary to serve seven notices, six for lack of cleanliness and one for inadequate ventilation.

CEMETERY.—In connection with the extension of the Silloth Cemetery the main drains were laid at a cost of £92. The subsidiary drains will be laid by your own workmen.

The restoration of the footpaths damaged by enemy action was completed, the work being very well executed by the County Council.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The walls of the shelter and conveniences at Allonby received special treatment to minimise the effects of defacement by irresponsible persons. The glass in the front of the shelter facing the sea has been replaced with "Perspex" on account of the repeated breakages.

KNACKER'S YARD.—This proposed new slaughtering establishment has not yet materialised due to difficulty in getting a civil building licence to proceed with the work.

TABLE I

Housing

Showing the number of families living under overcrowded conditions which will require to be re-housed, and the number of families without a separate home of their own.

Many cases shown under the heading of "sub-tenants" will be giving rise to temporary overcrowding, but are not included in the "Overcrowded" column. Those shown in the latter column are overcrowding separate homes of their own.

					Overcrowded		
					Sub-tenants.	Cases.	Total.
Wigton	...	...	...	...	98	11	109
Silloth	...	...	...	...	104	5	109
Aspatria	...	...	...	...	62	4	66
Abbey Town	...	...	...	...	17	8	25
Allhallows	...	...	...	...	19	1	20
Thursby	...	...	...	...	13	5	18
Bowness	...	...	...	...	11	5	16
Kirkbride	...	...	...	...	10	4	14
Bromfield	...	...	...	...	8	5	13
Allonby	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
Aikton	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
Kirkbampton	...	...	...	...	7	1	8
Woodside	...	...	...	...	1	7	8
Blennerhasset & Baggrow	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Holme St. Cuthberts	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Boltons	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Caldbeck	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Torpenhow	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Waverton	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Holme East Waver	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Ireby & Uldale	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Hayton & Mealo	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Westnewton	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Westward	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Biglands	...	...	...	...	—	2	2

TABLE II

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Housing Consolidated Regulations	...	...	2013
Public Health Act & Housing Act	...	...	232
Council House Repairs	...	...	115
Building Byelaws	...	...	125
Building Licence Investigations	...	...	288
Food and Drugs Act			
Milk & Dairies	...	...	160
Milk Sampling	...	...	427
Abattoir	...	...	215
Food Shops	...	...	20
Bakehouses	...	...	48

Sewers and Drains	...	...	...	...	132
Sewerage Schemes	...	...	...	...	143
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	38
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	36
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	31
Factories	...	...	...	...	15
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	7
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	16
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	8
Infectious Disease Inquiries	...	...	...	...	42
Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	75
Squatters' Sites	...	...	...	...	23
Prospective Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	25

TABLE III
Summary of Notices Served

INFORMAL :

Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	58
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	3
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	...	...	...	29
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	7
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	5

STATUTORY :

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	...	8
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39	...	1
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	2

TABLE IV
Synopsis of Work Carried Out at the Public Abattoir

	Cattle exclud'g Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Pigs Lambs.	
Number Killed	471	264	273	5337	47
Number Inspected	471	264	273	5337	47
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned	3	28	20	64	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	187	129	7	464	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	40.3	51.9	9.8	9.8	17.0
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	3	15	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	66	82	—	—	9
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	14.6	36.7	.36	—	19.1

TABLE V

Showing the Principal Grounds of Condemnation

BOVINE

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	12,448
Fevered Condition		...	...	8,236
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	4,165
Moribund	...	...	...	1,469
Emaciation	...	...	...	1,282
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	655
Bruising	...	...	...	597
Decomposition	...	...	...	352
Malnutrition	...	...	...	227
Mastitis	...	...	...	212

SHEEP

Emaciation	...	...	...	843
Parasitic	...	...	...	682
Fevered Condition	...	...	...	371
Bruising	...	...	...	266
Moribund	...	...	...	157
Oedema	...	...	...	61
Pnuemonia & Pluerisy	...	...	...	25
Post Mortem Putrifaction			...	30
Abscesses	...	...	...	24

PIGS

Fevered Condition		...	...	271
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	252
Bruising	...	...	...	45

TABLE VI

Comparative Table

	Total Weight of Meat Condemned.	Carcases Inspected.
1940	22,466 lbs.	4,398
1941	23,966 lbs.	9,015
1942	25,298 lbs.	9,236
1943	24,919 lbs.	8,719
1944	37,587 lbs.	9,690
1946	32,678 lbs.	6,392

TABLE VII

Particulars of foodstuffs other than fresh meat which were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Canned Meat	...	...	347 lbs.
Canned Milk	...	...	12 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	48 lbs.
Canned Fish	...	...	21 lbs.
Canned Fruit	...	...	12 lbs.
Wet Fish	...	...	448 lbs.
Fresh Fruit	...	...	10 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	49 lbs.
Ham	...	...	124 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	24 lbs.
Cereals	...	...	57 lbs.
Suet	...	...	14 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	5 lbs.
Assorted Foodstuffs	...	...	322 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	1 doz.

TABLE VIII

Particulars of Plans Formally Submitted.

APPROVED :—

New dwelling houses	...	...	...	11
Additions and alterations to dwelling houses	...	...	...	14
New garages and outbuildings	...	...	...	20
New cowsheds and dairy buildings	...	...	...	15
New factories	...	...	...	6
Additions to factories	...	...	...	8
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	11
Temporary buildings	...	...	...	3
Sanitary improvements	...	...	...	2
Development of land	...	...	...	2
Conversions	...	...	...	6
Addition to school	...	...	...	1
Extension to churchyard	...	...	...	1
Change of ownership	...	...	...	1
Resiting of cafe	...	...	...	1

REJECTED :—

New garage	...	...	...	1
Extension to cafe	...	...	...	1
Temporary bungalow	...	...	...	1

TABLE IX

Comparative Table showing weight of Materials Salvaged

		1941		1942		1943		1944		1945		1946	
		T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.
Waste	Paper	74	11	158	10	131	12	131	17	80	3	104	6
Rubber		—	—	20	9	8	17	3	3	—	12	—	—
Textiles		—	—	5	6	7	4	4	13	1	7	1	10
Bones		—	—	2	9	—	7	—	8	1	4	—	1

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BLACKBURN.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE WIGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report for the year 1946 by J. R. Watters,
Water Engineer to the Wigton Rural District
Council.

The water supply throughout the Rural District remains substantially the same as for 1945, as only minor improvements such as mains scraping have been carried out in an endeavour to improve the supply to deficient areas.

During the year, however, the Council have arranged with Consulting Engineers to make a comprehensive survey of the water resources within the district, to ascertain their capacity and suitability for development, so that an ample supply of water of good quality may be provided for all domestic and industrial demands. Preliminary reports on this survey have been under consideration, but definite decisions thereon are being delayed pending the report by the County Council on their proposed Mosedale Scheme which, it is suggested, might be developed to include some part of the Wigton Rural District.

The year has been remarkable for the rapid drying out of the smaller Spring Sources in the Eastern half of the district, up to a point where the demand was overtaking the yield of the Springs in July.

The incidence of heavy rainfall in late July, which continued to the end of the year, prevented the recurrence of the usual numerous complaints of lack of water in these districts for domestic and agricultural requirements.

ASPATRIA AND SILLOTH SCHEMES.—The supply to Aspatria and Silloth districts, which continues to be electrically boosted through the trunk mains, was well maintained on the existing demand, but with no margin of pressure to meet emergencies.

In Aspatria district, which is within the Development Area, new factories are under construction, and this new demand, the extent of which is still uncertain, may well prove to be too great a strain on the trunk mains capacity.

The duplication of the 9 inch trunk main as far as Aspatria is therefore becoming a matter of extreme urgency, and undue delay in carrying out this essential improvement is likely to result in new factories standing idle during the usual general increase in dry weather demand.

WIGTON TOWN SCHEME.—The Spring Sources have proved adequate in quantity to meet the total demand plus the heavy wastage factor due to defective services and fittings.

No further progress has been possible in eliminating this wastage as the quantity of material available to local plumbers is barely sufficient to deal with temporary patching work.

On the question of quality, the known liability of these Spring sources to pollution is a matter for serious consideration.

Large numbers of school children, drawn from almost every village in the Rural District, are concentrated in the Secondary Schools in the town where meals are provided, and in addition, the Central Kitchen will send out cooked meals to many Elementary Schools in the surrounding villages. In these circumstances the possible results of a periodically contaminated water supply, the effects of which may be spread beyond the limits of this supply area to the remotest parts of the Rural District, are very disturbing.

EASTERN AND WESTERN SCHEMES.—The combined sources of Greenfoot and Townthwaite Springs reached a level in mid-July where the total yield was less than the demand, with Townthwaite Springs drying in rapidly.

As previously reported, these sources are unsatisfactory both in quantity and quality, and will be quite incapable of meeting the demand of extended dry weather period.

The supply area is wholly agricultural with a considerable demand for milk-cooling and stock watering, coupled with a heavy demand in June and July for tomato culture on the seventy holdings of the Land Settlement Association at Crofton.

NORTHERN PARISHES SCHEME.—During dry weather pressure is intermittent at Oughterby, and at Bowness Village conditions are very unsatisfactory throughout the year.

A contract has been arranged for the laying of a new 4 inch main from the Aspatria and Silloth Anthorn mains which will connect with the existing mains at Bowness and provide adequate pressure throughout the Parish of Bowness.

The delaying factor here is in the delivery of pipes, but it is hoped that this work will be completed before the summer of 1947.

CALDBECK PARISH.—This Parish, which provides an increasingly insistent demand for agricultural supplies, is very inadequately supplied from two independent spring sources both of which are liable to contamination by surface drainage.

A new scheme for this Parish, which must be at an altitude capable of covering the numerous hill farms and cottages, is overdue, as farmers are being pressed to undertake extensive milk production which is quite impossible without a satisfactory water supply.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.—During the past ten years this district has not experienced the combination of drought with hot weather conditions wherein the agricultural demand for increased milk-cooling, together with the consumption from numerous cattle watering troughs which are the essential basic factor in milk production, cause a sudden heavy draw-off.

Since, in general, the existing schemes are not capable of adequately meeting the demand of these cool and wet summers, it is obvious that the first experience of real drought conditions will impose too great a burden on the existing mains system.

It is imperative, therefore, that the proposals now under consideration for the all-round improvement of water supplies throughout the district should be pressed forward to a satisfactory conclusion without delay.

Reports on the Bacteriological Examination of Water

Aspatria & Silloth Supply	...	...	...	Satisfactory.
Townthwaite Supply	...	...	...	Unsatisfactory.
Greenfoot Supply	...	...	...	Unsatisfactory.
Wigton Town Supply	...	...	...	Unsatisfactory.

Analysis of Parish Water Supplies

Parish.	Dwelling Houses Existing	Population. (estimated)	Dw. Houses supplied from mains. (estimated).	Population supplied
Aspatria	876	3,153	874	3,146
Allhallows	204	734	194	698
Allonby	191	687	190	683
Aikton	124	446	110	396
Boltons	190	684	160	576
Bromfield	180	648	163	587
Bowness	299	1,076	278	1,000

Caldbeck	...	...	244	878	139	500
Dundraw	...	...	52	197	44	158
Holme St. Cuthberts			151	543	142	511
Holme Abbey	...		211	759	201	723
Holme East Waver			79	284	73	263
Holme Low	...		115	414	110	396
Hayton	...	...	63	227	61	220
Ireby	...	...	165	594	114	420
Kirkbride	...	...	135	486	125	450
Kirkbampton	...		92	331	80	288
Silloth	...	...	820	2,952	816	2,937
Sebergham	...		109	392	90	324
Thursby	...	...	198	712	191	687
Torpenhow	...	...	171	615	142	511
Wigton	...	...	1,164	4,190	1,158	4,169
Waverton	...	...	105	378	87	313
Westward	...	...	225	810	165	594
Woodside	...	...	169	608	150	540
Westnewton	...		75	270	74	266
Totals	...		6,407	23,068	5,931	21,356

The number of dwelling houses, which includes all farm houses, having a piped supply from Council's mains represents 92 per cent of the total existing.

Of the 476 houses not supplied from Council's mains 275 lie at an altitude above the level of existing gravitational supply mains, and many of these have privately owned piped supplies of doubtful quality.

Standpipes are not provided by the Council, so that all the piped supplies are direct to the houses, except in the town of Wigton where many groups of houses take all their domestic water from one standpipe fixed by the owner of the property, and where sanitation is in many cases of a communal nature.

These latter conditions apply to private water services which were laid 80 years ago.

J. R. WATTERS,

Water Engineer.

